

THE AMERICAN SOUND

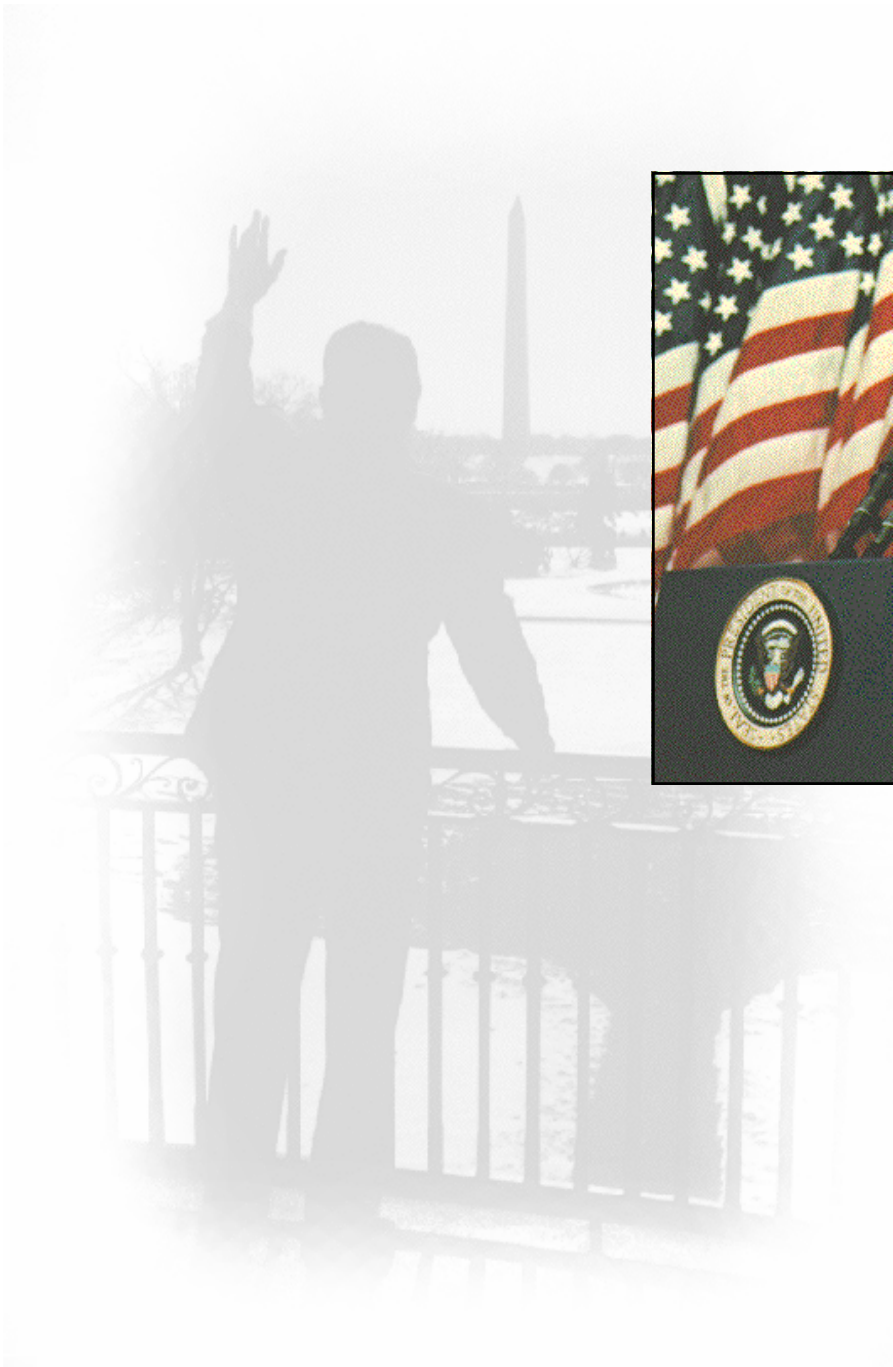
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TEN YEARS IN THE MAJORITY

WHAT HAS IT MEANT?

FEATURING ARTICLES BY:
REP. JOHN BOEHNER
REP. DEBORAH PRYCE
REP. TOM FEENEY
NEWT GINGRICH
REP. GIL GUTKNECHT
SPKR. DENNIS HASTERT &
REP. DEVIN NUNES



“Now we hear again the echoes of our past: a general falls to his knees in the hard snow of Valley Forge, a lonely President paces the darkened halls, and ponders his struggle to preserve the Union; the men of the Alamo call out encouragement to each other; a settler pushes west and sings a song, and the song echoes out forever and fills the unknowing air.

It is the American sound. It is hopeful, big-hearted, idealistic, daring, decent and fair. That’s our heritage, that is our song. We sing it still. For all our problems, our differences, we are together as of old, as we raise our voice to the God who is the Author of this most tender music. And may He continue to hold us close as we fill the world with our sound – sound in unity, affection, and love – one people under God, dedicated to the dream of freedom that He has placed in the human heart, called upon now to pass that dream on to a waiting and hopeful world.”

President Ronald Reagan
January 21, 1985

CONTENTS

FALL 2004 :: VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

ON THE COVER:

TEN YEARS IN THE MAJORITY: WHAT HAS IT MEANT?

It's an ironic twist in our political history that today's conservatives are the ones proposing, defending, and enacting "change." ... For the last ten years and for the foreseeable future it will be America's conservative party that's seeking and returning power and resources to individuals and communities.



10 Years in the Majority 4

By Rep. Deborah Pryce & Rep. John Boehner

Looking Over the Horizon.....5

By Speaker Dennis Hastert (www.house.gov/hastert/)

Leading With Principles6

By Rep. Tom Feeney (www.house.gov/feeney/)

Delivering On the Promise.....8

By Rep. Devin Nunes (nunes.house.gov)

"Viva the Revolution"9

By Rep. Gil Gutknecht (gil.house.gov)

A New Congress: Ten Years Later..... 10

By Rep. John Boehner (johnboehner.house.gov)

'Real Change' is the Best Medicine..... 11

By Newt Gingrich (www.newt.org)

A Look Back... And A Look Forward..... 12

By Rep. Deborah Pryce (www.house.gov/pryce/)

THE AMERICAN SOUND

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ALSO SEE THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN BOOK OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

WWW.GOP.GOV/PUBLIC/10YRBOOKLET.PDF

10 Years in the Majority

REP. DEBORAH PRYCE
&
REP. JOHN BOEHNER

November 2, 2004 has come and gone, and the voters of the fifty states have spoken: George W. Bush has the vision they want in the White House, and the path they wish to pursue is the one laid out by the Republican Party. It's easy to look at the results and draw any number of conclusions – that the President has a mandate, that he doesn't have a mandate; that voter turnout was driven largely by moral issues, the War on Terrorism, or something else altogether; that we'll get "more of the same," as Democrats deride, or we won't. In any case, one thing is clear to us: the majority of the American people weren't necessarily thinking about getting "more of the same" when they voted for President Bush; they were thinking about and voting for the changes offered by the President and Republicans.

It's an ironic twist in our political history that today's conservatives are the ones proposing, defending, and enacting "change." By any measure it is Democrats and liberals who want to maintain the status quo: a federal government grown too large in its influence over every day life. For the last ten years and for the foreseeable future it will be America's conservative party that's seeking and returning power and resources to individuals and communities.

We're in a position to do this today because of a historic journey that began with Senator Barry Goldwater in 1964, was advanced by President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s, and was crystallized in 1994 by our unique opportunity to serve as the majority in Congress. It's the past ten years that we're here to discuss today; how it happened, what we've accom-

plished, and what it's meant for America.

From the election of 1994 on the GOP has offered consistent and clear choices for the American people. For a decade now we've laid out goals – short term and long term – that we believe best serve and best reflect the desires of Americans. Whether it was a dramatic change in welfare, calls for school accountability and choice, decisive action against radical Islamists, or efforts to reduce the demand for government through personal ownership of health care or retirement, Republicans have had a plan of action. Americans have seen that, and Americans have responded to it.

With the help of some distinguished Republicans, *The American Sound* examines the Republican Party's ten years in the majority. Rep. Gutknecht was himself a part of the revolutionary 1994 class that ushered in a GOP majority in the House of Representatives and the United States Senate. Speaker Hastert was here in the years prior, and has seen the GOP grow from a minority party with a vision to a majority party with the mandate to govern. Former Speaker Gingrich offers his thoughts on where we are and where we need to go. Articles from Reps. Feeney and Nunes, both elected to the House in 2002, discuss the impact of the 1994 election, and the subsequent Republican agenda, on their lives and their decisions to seek higher office.

Together we take look back at what we've done and a look forward to what's ahead.

johnboehner.house.gov



Rep. John Boehner and Rep. Deborah Pryce together at a rally for President Bush in Columbus, Ohio.

Looking Over the Horizon

SPEAKER DENNIS HASTERT

Ten years ago, a large group of members of Congress gathered outside the West Front of the Capitol and made a series of promises. In fact, they signed a contract with the American people to carry through on those promises. On that fall day, politics in America changed, and that November, a new majority was elected to the House of Representatives.

For ten years, that majority has governed with the best interests of the American people in mind. Whether it is delivering a better Medicare program with a prescription drug benefit or changing welfare so that more folks go to work rather than the welfare office, whether it is cutting taxes to spur economic growth or making government smarter and more responsive, whether it is providing more resources for our armed forces or responding effectively to the terrorists who attacked American on September 11th 2001, the Republican Congress has delivered for the American people.

As I look over the horizon, I see many challenges that we must face as a nation, and that the Republican Congress is ready to conquer. First, we have to win the war against the terrorists. That means supporting our armed forces, defending our homeland, making sure we have the best intelligence gathering operation in the world.

We have to make our economy more competitive so we can keep



SPEAKER J. DENNIS HASTERT (IL-14)
www.house.gov/hastert/

jobs here in America. We need litigation reform, regulation reform and taxation reform. Frivolous lawsuits, redundant regulations and an anti-competitive tax code kill jobs in America. We need to reform our laws to scale back the junk lawsuits, bring common-sense to our regulations, and make our tax code more friendly to job creation.

We have a plan to make health care more affordable and accessible. We should create association health plans allowing small businesses to consolidate to achieve the same market clout as major corporations. We should promote health savings accounts to give consumers more power to control how they spend their health care dollars. We should stop the lawsuits that

are unnecessarily driving up health care costs, and driving many doctors out of business.

We have other challenges as well, whether it is

making America energy-independent, winning the war on drugs, or improving education for all of our children.

The Republican Congress has taken the lead in all of these fights. The Republican Congress has a proven track record of delivering for the American people. We have done it for the last ten years. And as I look over the horizon, we have what it takes to deliver results for the American people for the next ten years.

"... A PROVEN
TRACK RECORD OF
DELIVERING FOR THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE."



REPRESENTATIVE HASTERT IS THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. MR. HASTERT WAS FIRST ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 1986.

Leading With Principles

REP. TOM FEENEY

My political career began as a minority backbencher in the Florida House of Representatives. There the majority, who had held power for decades along with attendant arrogance, rode roughshod.

But after an astonishing shift of political power in Florida, I rose to become Speaker of that body from 2000-2002. Now I'm wrapping up my first two years in the United States Congress. The view is much better from the majority side of the aisle.

Republicans gained majority status in 1994 as several political and historic forces converged. By winning the Cold War, reviving a stagnant economy, and revitalizing the American spirit, Ronald Reagan illustrated the leadership our movement could provide. In state government, trailblazers like Wisconsin's Governor Tommy Thompson and Michigan's Governor John Engler demonstrated leadership and results.

Bill Clinton and his Congressional majority cohorts overreached in substantially increasing taxes and unsuccessfully attempting to cram socialized medicine down America's throat. Forty years of uninterrupted control of the U.S. House of Representatives resulted in Democrat abuse of power and public trust. Finally, Newt Gingrich along with other dedicated House members crafted the Contract for America -- a clear and powerful articulation of what we would do if given the privilege of majority status.

Majorities govern -- a difficult and demanding task. So our transition from a minority mindset has not been without missteps. Yet America is unquestionably better after ten years.

Republicans understand that our first responsibility is to protect this country and its citizens. We take a sober perspective of our enemies (they aren't a mere "nuisance") and are unafraid to take the struggle



REP. TOM FEENEY (FL-24)
www.house.gov/feeney/

to them. Reagan epitomized this approach in dealing with the Soviet Union -- demanding and achieving victory when others settled for a draw or worse. A similar mindset compelled President Bush to take decisive action after September 11 -- rapidly projecting American power to the other side of the world, crushing the Taliban in Afghanistan, and relentlessly pursuing terrorists and the countries that harbor them.

At home, too many people lived in fear as crime rates steadily rose since the mid 1960's. Under our policies, the criminal justice system refocused on protecting victims and removing predators from society. The tide turned. In 2003, Americans -- from all walks of life -- experienced the lowest rate of violent and property crimes since the U.S. Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey began in 1973.

Republican's focus on free markets, low taxes, and less regulation ensured a permanent break from the 1970's economic stagnation and price inflation. Talk ceased about "planned economies" epitomized by the Japanese model. Entrepreneurialism, innovation, and vibrancy flourished.

Finally, Republicans brought about fundamental welfare and education reform. Dependence doesn't provide human dignity. Justice demands that a parent's zip code not determine the quality of their children's educational opportunity.

The responsibility of governing brings home Teddy Roosevelt's great wisdom: "It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the

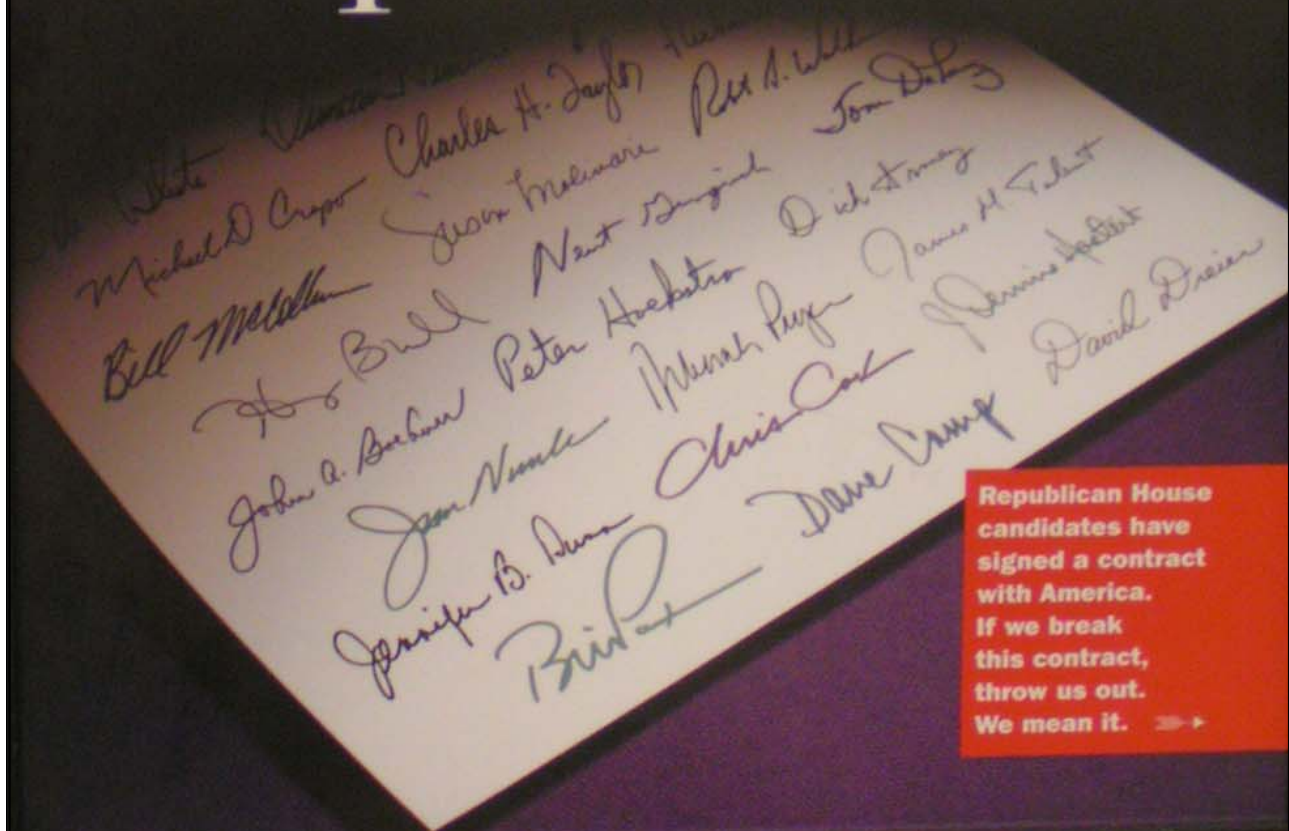
(Continued on page 15 — Principles)



Congressman Feeney meets Silver Star winner CW5 Donald F. Tabron.

Political Advertisement

A campaign
promise
is one thing.
A signed contract
is quite another.



A copy of an advertisement released by House Republicans who signed on to the **Contract with America**.

Delivering on the Promise

REP. DEVIN NUNES

I was president of the College Republicans at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, in 1994 when Republicans regained the majority in the House for the first time in 40 years.

The Republican victory was both thrilling and terrifying for those of us at the grassroots level: It meant that conservatives now had the numbers of House members they needed to advance substantive, common-sense issues. But at the same time, they now had no excuses for failing to get things done. After all, Democrats had four decades to advance their agenda but had nothing positive to show for it.

So, the question was, what could the Republicans of the Contract with America class accomplish and how long would they have to get it done?

Time has proven that they could accomplish a lot in a small amount of time, and America is better off for their efforts. Republicans led the charge to reform welfare, rebuild the military and cut taxes for families and small businesses. They have since modernized Medicare to lower



REP. DEVIN NUNES (CA-21)
nunes.house.gov

health care costs and focus attention on preventative medicine. They cracked down on criminals on the streets and made homeownership more attainable for millions of families. I have had the privilege of participating in some of those changes as a freshman member of Congress.

At the time House Republicans gained the majority, my political aspirations didn't ex-

the House Republicans laid down a decade ago has made all the difference for those of us in Congress today. Their leadership has shown what hard work, determination, and accountability to the taxpayer can accomplish.

I am extremely proud to be part of a lawmaking body that has a track record of getting positive things done. Even more remarkable are the number of accomplishments achieved since the terrorist attacks on September 11. In a time when the international war on terror has occupied so much of our time and resources, the House Leadership has also kept up with their commitment to address critical domestic issues. Historians will look back at this time and note what an unprecedented period of productivity it has been.

As we look to the future, it is critical we capitalize on the gains we have made and continue to demonstrate to the American people that a Republican House has their best interests at heart and will deliver on their promises.



Rep. Nunes with Sheikh Ghazi al-Yawer, Interim President of Iraq.

tend beyond the gates of my college campus. However, in the decade that followed, House members have demonstrated that our congressional leadership can make and fulfill promises they make to their constituents.

I never would have seized the opportunity to run for office if I did not believe I could actually get something done for the people of my district. The groundwork that

REPRESENTATIVE NUNES IS AN ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP, AND SERVES ON THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCES. MR. NUNES WAS FIRST ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 2002.

“Viva the Revolution”

REP. GIL GUTKNECHT

It's hard to believe that it's been ten years since I climbed onto the buses that ferried freshman Members of Congress around the nation's Capitol during our orientation. It was a heady time. Republicans had regained the majority in the House for the first time in four decades.

I remember one of those first days when an old lady – oh, in this era of political correctness, I better not say ‘old.’ I remember when a nice lady with blue hair approached some of us who had gathered outside, waiting for the bus. She looked at us, paused and said, “I know who you are. You're the new freshman Republicans.” As we parted, she said, with tears welling up in her eyes, “I've been waiting 40 years for this.”

With the “Contract for America” as a blueprint, 230 emboldened Republicans filled the halls of Congress, rolled up our sleeves and got to work.

The new Congress changed how government worked in America. Our philosophy was based on growing American opportunity, strengthening families, returning to a sense of fiscal sanity and reducing the tax burden on hard working Americans. We tackled tort reform in hopes of limiting frivolous lawsuits. We cut regulations so small businesses could spend less time filling out paperwork and more time growing their business. And we passed health savings accounts so Americans could have more control over their own health care.

For too long Washington had been imposing its values on Middle America. We were committed to reversing that trend.

Sometimes we get too caught up in the details of the day, ignoring the big picture. I think it's worth considering where we were when Republicans first became the majority in 1994 and where we are today.

In 1994, the Dow Jones closed at 3834. Today, we're over 10,000. At the end of 1994, interest rates were 8.5 percent. Today they're less than 4.5 percent. In 1994, the bankruptcy rate was 17.9 percent. This year, it's less than 3 percent. In 1994, median household income was \$32,000. Today it's more than \$43,000. In 1994, the unemployment rate was 6 percent. Today it's 5.4 percent. Welfare rolls have been halved.

The list goes on.

I am pleased that pro-growth policies, such as reducing the tax burden on American families and small business owners, reforming the welfare



REP. GIL GUTKNECHT (MN-1)
gil.house.gov

system and removing trade barriers so American farmers can sell their products across the globe, have had such a positive impact on the American economy.

Statistics are important, but it's more important to identify what they mean to average Americans. Lower interest rates mean more families can purchase a home and live the American dream. And the good news is that home ownership rates are the highest on record. Higher incomes mean families have more money to save, spend and invest. Today, 50 million Americans over the age of 25 have a college degree compared to 36 million in 1994. Welfare reform means two million American families have been rescued from another generation of dependency and despair.

I believe, good public policy is about building stronger families and leaving a better world to your children and grandchildren. That's why we created the \$400 child tax credit in 1997 and increased the credit to \$1,000 in 2001. That's why we created the 10 percent tax bracket to

decrease the tax burden on lower-income workers. That's why we eliminated the marriage penalty and death taxes.

Still, there is much more to do.

The recent economic upswing

(Continued on page 16 - Revolution)

“WITH THE ‘CONTRACT
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EMBOLDENED
REPUBLICANS FILLED THE
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AND GOT TO WORK.”

A New Congress: Ten Years Later

REP. JOHN BOEHNER

“As Republican Members of the House of Representatives and as citizens seeking to join that body we propose not just to change its policies, but even more important, to restore the bonds of trust between the people and their elected representatives.”

-Contract with America, signed by 367 Republican candidates for the House of Representatives

Ten years ago, the United States was poised to make a sweeping change in the leadership of its federal government. And we did. Propelled by the Contract with America and the strong national desire for fresh ideas, the Republican Party regained a congressional majority for the first time in more than a generation. I've had a unique opportunity to be both a member of the U.S. House leadership and a committee chairman during these past ten years. Looking back upon them, it really is remarkable to review just what we have accomplished – often with the assistance of Democrat colleagues – as a Congress and as a nation.



REP. JOHN BOEHNER (OH-8)
johnboehner.house.gov

When the newly-shaped Congress took office in 1995, some major challenges stood ahead of us. The previous Congress and President Clinton had just approved the largest tax hike in America's history. Welfare rolls were spiraling out of control. And billions of dollars were being poured into our nation's public schools with absolutely no expectation of results.

Nearly a decade later, substantial reforms have taken hold.

Since the 1994 election, Congress has delivered major legislative initiatives affecting scores of issues important to American families. Whether between Republicans and Democrats in Congress or between the Republican Congress and former President Clin-

ton, an often overlooked fact about many of these legislative reforms is that they were crafted and approved in a bipartisan manner.

Take, for instance, welfare reform. This is perhaps the most important and substantial accomplishment of the Republican-led Congress. Though he vetoed the legislation twice, President Clinton finally did sign our welfare reform legislation in 1996, and the results have been nothing short of dramatic. The number of people on welfare has decreased by 9 million. 3 million fewer families are on welfare today than a decade ago – a staggering 57 percent drop. And employment of mothers most likely to go on welfare rose by 40 percent between 1995 and 2000.

Or take the issue of taxes. During both the Clinton and Bush Administrations, Congress has provided meaningful tax relief. In the past few years especially, this tax relief has kept our economic motor running during a time when it very well could have stalled. Income tax rates are lower. The Death Tax is being phased out. The marriage penalty has been eliminated. The child tax credit has increased to \$1000 per child. Even teachers now have a special deduction for up to \$250 in annual classroom expenses.

But the last ten years haven't been without contention. The Republican Party has itself transformed from the fiery minority in 1994 to the workable, governing, majority party that it is today. There hasn't been a smooth or easy ride getting here, and the fights between fiscal conservatives, social conservatives, and libertarian Republicans continue to play themselves out with each piece of legislation that comes forward.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is a good example. A truly historic bipartisan measure, NCLB was the most comprehensive education reform in more than three decades. Last year in this forum I argued that NCLB is a model example of the recent strategy by Republicans of “using government to meet a conservative end.” In this case, the end was “accountability for those responsible for educating our children.” Under this law, education resources for schools have increased by nearly fifty percent. And for the first time ever, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have in place their own uniquely-designed accountability plans to track the progress of all of our nation's students – regardless of race, family income, or community.

NCLB and other recent measures have been born

(Continued on page 14 — Ten Years Later)



‘REAL CHANGE’ IS THE BEST MEDICINE

AN ARTICLE BY THE FORMER SPEAKER OF
THE HOUSE, NEWT GINGRICH

Having lived through a fair number of negative campaigns, I feel comfortable in characterizing this past year as one of the most bitter campaigns in my lifetime. There will be, I believe, a sincere desire by many Americans to get beyond the election results and to have our country reunified. However, a significant number of voters who cast their ballots for the losing candidate will have difficulty coming to terms with the America that voted against their values.

America is in the middle of a deep struggle over the nature of being American and the key elements of how we create and shape the future. To get beyond the division, Americans will have to decide which direction they will unite behind. If the next president truly wants to unify the country, he will have to play a leading role in settling that argument.

This task cannot be accomplished from inside Washington. The lobbyist-bureaucrat-career politician conglomerate that dominates the city resists substantive change, instead choosing to fight over the margins of the current system that benefits them, even at the expense of a better future for the majority of Americans. The prospect for major change is further weakened by a news media capable of spending hundreds of hours on the Scott Peterson trial but virtually no time on trans-

forming the health system (the largest single sector of our economy).

GO BEYOND WASHINGTON

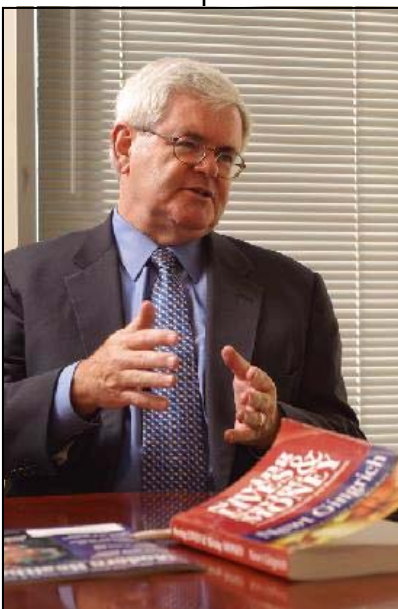
These realities compel a president who wants to make real change to reach beyond Washington. He must engage in a continuous, focused effort to educate, inspire and organize the American people so that they will apply pressure on Congress.

When the president reaches out to the American people on a big reform, he will inevitably create deep, bitter, determined and entrenched opposition. That opposition will understand why its future is being undermined and how much the president's proposal will damage its pocketbook, its ideology or its power base.

Seeking to reform the litigation system driving doctors out of practice and forcing businesses to move jobs overseas will require a fight with the trial-lawyer lobby.

Trying to create personal Social Security accounts so that every young person can have the power of compound interest will require taking on the liberals and the union leaders who oppose change.

Wanting to appoint conservative judges who favor keeping "one nation under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance (a position 91% of Americans



agree with) will require a fight with every liberal who will support an all-out filibuster to prevent the courts from moving to the right.

AN AGGRESSIVE WAR ON TERROR

Continuing the fight against terrorism and emphasizing the dangers of weapons of mass destruction, even if it means tension with Iran, North Korea and Syria, will provoke the left wing of the Democratic Party, which is bitterly opposed to an aggressive American role in the world.

Moving toward a balanced budget will cause ferocious fights with members of the House and Senate who have grown comfortable doling out pork and finding excuses for more and more spending.

Strengthening our control of our borders (as serious Homeland Security requires) while at the same time creating a guest-worker program to make legal the economic realities of our time will spark a two-front battle. The Hispanic community and much of the left will oppose serious border controls while many on the right will oppose any guest-worker program.

Insisting that public schools actually teach American history and American values will provoke a bitter fight with the left, no matter how popular those values are with the American people.

Creating a public education system that produces students who can compete successfully with India and China in the 21st century will require taking on bureaucrats and the powerful teachers union. Efforts to shift to effectiveness and away from bureaucracy will be bitterly fought by those who fear change and reject accountability.

A president who wants real change is going to face real fights. These conflicts are inevitable and reflective of the crossroads we have reached in our history and the decisions we must make. If the next president desires unity, he must commit himself to doing the hard work to win these fights. Unity will come only after the country decides which future it wants.

NEWT GINGRICH WAS SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE FROM 1995 TO 1998 AND IS THE AUTHOR OF THE SOON-TO-BE-RELEASED BOOK, WINNING THE FUTURE: A 21ST CENTURY CONTRACT WITH AMERICA.

A Look Back... And a Look Forward

REP. DEBORAH PRYCE

In 1994, when Republicans took control of the House for the first time in 40 years, we faced a daunting challenge. Democrats had just approved the largest tax hike in America's history. The health care system was under attack by President Clinton who wanted to turn it into a one-size fits all bureaucracy. And the



REP. DEBORAH PRYCE (OH-15)
www.house.gov/pryce/

Democrat majority was recklessly cutting defense and intelligence spending, naively thinking that the end of the Cold War meant that the U.S. no longer had enemies abroad and now rested in a zone of safety.

But in January of 1995, 230 emboldened Republicans came to Washington with clear goals, ready to roll up their sleeves and undo the damage of years and years of big government. Over the past ten years, House Republicans have remained true to this mission and enriched the lives of millions of men, women and children by:

- ✓ Restoring common-sense limits and accountability to runaway government spending;
- ✓ Giving children the tools for a better life by enhancing parents' roles in our schools and expanding educational opportunities;
- ✓ Freeing working families from the heavy tax burden that was consuming much-needed money for groceries and gas;
- ✓ Creating millions of new careers for workers who want more than a dead-end job;

- ✓ Encouraging America's entrepreneurs who provide the innovation and exploration that drives the new frontiers of our economy;
- ✓ Establishing a new, more optimistic welfare system that encourages self-sufficiency and provides millions of men and women with a new lease on life;
- ✓ Protecting the sanctity of marriage and the strength of the family; and
- ✓ Enhancing Americans' golden years with pension safeguards, higher quality healthcare and better retirement benefits.

And above all, House Republicans have reversed the dangerous mindset that America does not have enemies who seek our destruction. September 11th taught us that such ideas were naïve. And so, we have committed significant resources to prevent another attack.

Our record of the past ten years is nothing short of astounding. We have done more in the last decade to provide real hope and opportunity to more Americans than the Democrats did in the 40 years they were in control. And with these successes, we go before the American public and ask for another ten years, confident in their answer.



Representative Deborah Pryce and President George W. Bush.

A LOOK FORWARD

House Republicans' record over the past ten years is nothing short of astounding. But the achievements of the past decade will not cause House Republicans to wander into complacency. Far from it, the record of the past ten years provides us with a solid foundation upon which to build. In the next ten years, House Republicans will continue working to enhance America's security, prosperity and families. The same principles that guided us throughout the past decade will once again serve as our vision for the future:

ENHANCING WORKER FINANCIAL INDEPEND-

ENCE AND SECURITY

House Republicans will...

- ✓ Prevent tax increases on families by making tax relief permanent;
- ✓ Ease access to credit and other financial assistance to increase homeownership;
- ✓ Increase job training programs and access to life-long learning programs;
- ✓ Help low-income Americans to purchase health savings accounts that give workers the opportunity to save tax-free for routine health expenses;
- ✓ Strengthen Social Security by allowing younger workers to save some of their taxes in a personal account that the government can never take away.
- ✓ Removing the barriers that stifle America's economy House Republicans will...
- ✓ Curb the amount of frivolous lawsuits, including those against doctors and other health care providers;
- ✓ Provide incentives to businesses for more research and development;
- ✓ Decrease our dependence on foreign sources of energy through incentives for both increased domestic production and alternative sources;
- ✓ Remove burdensome regulations;
- ✓ Expand trade and level the playing field so that American goods and services can compete fairly across the globe;
- ✓ Create "opportunity zones" that provide tax relief and other incentives to businesses;
- ✓ Allow small firms to join together to purchase

insurance at the discounts available to big companies;

- ✓ Offer tax credits to encourage small businesses and their employees to set up Health Savings Accounts.

BUILDING STRONG, FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS

House Republicans will...

- ✓ Raise performance requirements for high schools;
- ✓ Expand Pell grants for low and middle income families;
- ✓ Enroll more low-income children who are eligible but not signed up for the government's health insurance programs.

These goals are aggressive and bold, but achievable. Election after election, the American people have confirmed that the Republican agenda is the agenda they want. Our forward-looking, hopeful vision is what they seek for their families, their communities and their country. And we will do more than meet the public's expectations.

REPRESENTATIVE PRYCE IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE. MRS. PRYCE WAS FIRST ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 1992.



(Continued from page 10 — Ten Years Later)

of the conflict and compromise between those who believe in a more limited government, and those who want it now. I argued that a majority party must, in order to govern effectively, have a pragmatic approach to both achieving its goals and working within the framework that exists. Streamlining federal homeland security agencies, creating Health Savings Accounts so Americans can save tax-free for medical expenses, adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare, and so on, are the products of this philosophy.

My article asked if Republicans had become the “party of big government,” a question that has since been a repeated discussion topic in magazines and newspapers. Writers from all walks have taken up the question and come to, in most cases, answers similar to my own – that Congressional Republicans have shown that we can remain committed to our core ideals of a strong national defense, accountability in spending taxpayer dollars, and a more responsive federal government. And we’ve shown we can reach across party lines to make the reforms necessary to move our nation forward.

But we have some work to do. The Contract with America was the blueprint for the President’s “Ownership Society” – itself a take on the idea of using liberal means for conservative ends. We need to reform Social Security by introducing the option of personal retirement accounts for younger workers. We must work to make the tax code fairer and less prone to abuse by social engineers in government, tax dodgers, and those able to sniff out loopholes and exemptions. We must recommit ourselves to free trade, and we must support the efforts of the President in the war on terrorism. To keep the budget in check, House Republicans must act to change the appropriations process so as to end the “earmarking” of federal funds for members’ pet projects.

Ten years ago, the United States sought fresh ideas and change in the federal government – Republicans have delivered, and will continue to do so. I’m proud of what we have accomplished, and I’m optimistic about the work that remains ahead.

REPRESENTATIVE BOEHNER IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE, AND IS THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. MR. BOEHNER WAS FIRST ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 1990.

(Continued from page 6 — Principles)

strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood..." While in the arena, one can easily be distracted from our purpose.

As we were reminded earlier this year, Ronald Reagan never lost sight of his principles. He consistently communicated them to the American public and referred to them when making hard decisions. This June's spontaneous outpouring of tribute paid by ordinary citizens demonstrated Richard Weaver's maxim: "Ideas Have Consequences."

Governing becomes easier when you know what your principles are and fight for them every day. Principles serve as guidelines for how we ought to govern ourselves.

This year, the Republican Study Committee (92 principally conservative free-market, socially conservative Members of Congress) adopted these six principles to use in evaluating legislation:

1. **Less Government.** Does the bill tend to reduce government regulations, size of government, eliminate entitlements, or unnecessary programs?
2. **Lower Taxes.** Does the bill promote individual responsibility in spending or reduce taxes or fees?
3. **Personal Responsibility.** Does the bill encourage responsible behavior by individuals and families and encourage them to provide for their own health, safety, education, moral fortitude, or general welfare?
4. **Individual Freedom.** Does the bill increase opportunities for individuals or families to decide, without hindrance or coercion from government, how to conduct their own lives and make personal choices?
5. **Stronger Families.** Does the bill enhance the traditional American family and its power to rear children without excessive interference from the government?
6. **Domestic Tranquility, National Defense.** Does the bill enhance American security without unduly burdening civil liberty?

These principles were taken from those used while I was Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives. There, they served as a prism through which an elected official could assess any amendment

or proposal, any constituent request, any colleague's request for support, and certainly any votes cast.

By advocating and advancing these six principles, I, as Speaker, could tell committee chairmen, fellow House members, liberals or conservatives, Republicans or Democrats, or even my best friend that proposals inconsistent with some or all of these stated principles would not make it through the legislative gates and hurdles. But if your piece of legislation was consistent with these ideals, I was on your team and would help in any way.

Standing on principle actually invited people to be part of the process, and "flattened the pyramid of power." It was not just one guy at the top, or two, or five dictating as an oligarchy. The principles constrained, guided, and encouraged all of us -- a constantly reinvigorating event.

We accomplished great things. Florida now has the most comprehensive school choice opportunities in the country -- vouchers for those attending failing schools, vouchers for disabled students, a private voucher program under the Children's Educational Opportunities Foundation, and charter schools. Civil service laws were reformed. Taxes were reduced every year. Tort reforms were enacted. Florida incorporated some private alternatives into one of the largest public pension systems. All this occurred, I believe, because policy prescriptions came after the application of these fundamental principles throughout our legislative process.

In 1776, George Mason penned this timeless guidance into the Virginia Declaration of Rights:

That no free government, or the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles.

Let's rededicate ourselves to these tasks.

REPRESENTATIVE FEENEY SERVES ON THE HOUSE FINANCIAL SERVICES, JUDICIARY, AND SCIENCE COMMITTEES. MR. FEENEY WAS FIRST ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 2002.

THE AMERICAN SOUND ONLINE

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(Continued from page 9 - Revolution)

has reduced deficit projections. However, Congress still has a lot to do to eliminate wasteful Washington spending. Part of the solution is to reform the budget process, so that the federal budget doesn't grow faster than the family budget. If we want to spend additional money, we have to limit money elsewhere. Millions of families across the country make tough choices in their household budgets. For the first six years we did a great job. We need to refocus on spending.

As oil climbs past \$50 per barrel, the comprehensive energy bill is stalled in the Senate. We need a focus on renewable fuels, such as wind, ethanol, biodiesel and biomass. By utilizing the talents of American farmers and entrepreneurs who are harnessing renewable energy sources, we take a step closer to energy independence.

Annual double digit prescription drug price increases tell us that we must do more to lower the cost of prescription drugs. That's why I authored and passed H.R. 2427, the Pharmaceutical Market Access Act. The measure allows American consumers access to FDA-approved prescription drugs from FDA-approved facilities. The measure also is awaiting Senate action.

Rising health care costs, including malpractice insurance costs for our doctors and nurses, tell us that we need more reform of the tort liability system.

The attacks of September 11 were the deadliest on American soil. We must never forget or become complacent. Today, terrorists are on the run, freedom is on the March. Free elections were held in Afghanistan just last week and will be held in Iraq in January. Americans know people have a fundamental yearning for freedom and liberty. By advancing our ideas and exposing the hatred of fundamentalist terrorists, we will win the War on Terror.

I often think of that woman who met us while we were waiting for the bus on a wintry January day in Washington, DC. I wonder what she thinks of the first ten years of the Republican majority. I would like to think that, despite some bumps here and there, we didn't let her down. But public opinion is a fickle thing. We owe her, and millions like her, our best effort.

REPRESENTATIVE GUTKNECHT SERVES ON THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE, BUDGET, AND SCIENCE COMMITTEES. MR. GUTKNECHT WAS FIRST ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 1994.



BEHIND THE AMERICAN SOUND

CRAFTING A JOURNAL OF AMERICAN IDEAS

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN BOEHNER



REP. JOHN BOEHNER (OH-8)
johnboehner.house.gov

Born in Cincinnati in November 1949 as one of 12 brother and sisters, John Boehner has lived in Southwest Ohio his entire life. He and his wife Debbie have been married for 30 years. They have two daughters – Lindsay and Tricia – and live in the northern Cincinnati suburb of West Chester.

After graduating from Cincinnati's Moeller High School in 1968, John earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from Xavier University in Cincinnati in 1977. Upon his graduation, he accepted a position with Nucite Sales, a small sales business in the packaging and plastics industry, and eventually became president of the firm.

While working in the private sector, John entered the political arena – first serving as Union Township trustee from 1982 to 1984 and then as a representative to the Ohio state legislature from 1984 to 1990.

In 1990, John was elected to represent Ohio's Eighth Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. His first two terms in the House were marked by several government reform accomplishments – including closing the House bank and uncovering illegal practices at the House post office. As a result of his reform-minded agenda, he was elected to the House Republican leadership after the Republican election victories in 1994.

Currently, John serves as chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce – a title he has held since 2001. As committee chair, he was instrumental in passing President Bush's education reform package into law and continues to work closely with him on education and labor-related initiatives on a variety of issues. In addition to his chairmanship, John also serves as Vice-Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

REPRESENTATIVE DEBORAH PRYCE



REP. DEBORAH PRYCE (OH-15)
www.house.gov/pryce/

Since her first election in 1992, Congresswoman Pryce has quickly risen through the ranks in the United States Congress. In addition to serving on the powerful House Rules Committee, Congresswoman Pryce was elected by her colleagues to serve as the Republican Conference Chairman of the 108th Congress, making her the highest-ranking Republican woman to ever serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Her leadership and support on issues of importance to the business and manufacturing communities has not gone unnoticed.

During the 107th Congress, Congresswoman Pryce received the NFIB "Guardian of Small Business Award" and SAFE Trust endorsement, scoring 100% on the federation's voting scorecard. She has received similar awards and recognitions from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (perfect voting record), the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Small Business Survival Committee, and Citizens for a Sound Economy for her support on issues vital to the business community.

Pryce graduated from The Ohio State University in 1973, and earned a law degree at Capital University Law School in 1976, both with honors. Practicing first as a prosecutor, Congresswoman Pryce went on to serve as the presiding judge in the Franklin County Municipal Court, the post from which she resigned to run for Congress in 1992.

Congresswoman Pryce meets regularly with top Leaders in the House and Senate, as well as with President Bush and his Administration. Her seat at the leadership table is invaluable for her constituents in central Ohio and for all Americans who share her common-sense approach to governing.

Pryce lives in Upper Arlington, Ohio with her daughter, Mia. She enjoys reading and is an avid skier.

THE AMERICAN SOUND IS A PROJECT OF REP. JOHN BOEHNER AND REP. DEBORAH PRYCE. ITS PURPOSE IS TO PROPOSE, PROMOTE, AND DEFEND INNOVATIVE AND PRINCIPLED SOLUTIONS TO THE LONG-TERM CHALLENGES FACING THE COUNTRY, WHILE RELYING AND FOCUSING ON TRADITIONAL AMERICAN VALUES: FREEDOM, RESPONSIBILITY, FAITH, & OPPORTUNITY.

THE AMERICAN SOUND



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